

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 AGR-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

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PASS AGRICULTURE FOR ASST. SECRETARY BELL AND DONALD NOVOTNY

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EAGR, EEC

SUBJECT: GRAIN TRADE INTELLIGNCNE

REF: EC BRUSSELS 07918

1. OUR GRAIN TRADE SOURCES REPORT THAT THE USSR HAS PURCHASED TO DATE A TOTAL OF ABOUT 19 MILLION M.T. OF GRAINS, OF WHICH 8-8.5 MILLION ARE FEED GRAINS (4.5 CORN, 1.1 BARLEY, REMAINDER PROBABLY SORGHUMS), AND 10-11 MILLION ARE WHEAT. THE USSR IS EXPECTED TO PURCHASE AN ADDITIONAL 6 MILLION TONS OF WHEAT. THE CONSENSUS IN THE TRADE IS THAT THAT COUNTRY, AT LEAST FOR THE TIME BEING, IS NO LONGER INTERESTED IN PURCHASES OF ADDITIONAL FEED GRAINS UNLESS OFFER PRICES ARE SUFFICIENTLY LOW TO MAKE THEM ATTRACTIVE. IN THIS CASE, IF CONCEIVABLY COULD BE INTERESTED IN SMALL QUANTITIES OF PLATA CORN COMING ON THE MARKET IN DECEMBER-JANUARY AND POSSIBLY EVEN SOME AUSTRALIAN BARLEY AND SORGHUMS.

2. THE USSR USUALLY DISCUSSES ITS CONTRACTUAL SUPPLY COMMIT-
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MENTS WITH EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES CURING NOVEMBER-DECEMBER.

BECAUSE OF THE PRESENT SHORT SUPPLY SITUATION,
THE RUSSIANS ARE REPORTED TO HAVE TOLD THEIR EAST EUROPEAN
CUSTOMERS TO FEEL FREE TO BUY ON THEIR OWN BEHALF IN THE
WORLD MARKET AND THAT IT WILL ATTEMPT TO MAKE UP ANY SHORTFALLS
AT A LATER DATE.
GREENWALD

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